

PEABODY, MASS., October 9, 1916.

To the Directors-Members of the Corporation- and the People of Peabody:-

As President of the Peabody Community House I now make my report of the first year of our History.

It has been a notable year. In the short space of one year we have accomplished a wonderful work.

Starting in a small way, with a limited vision and a small aim, we have grown full size, strong and vigorous, ready to carry on to fuller completion, a great work which will prove of lasting benefit to the Town of Peabody.

On organizing, our first move was to raise funds. Through the co-operation of Mr. Atkinson, Secretary of the Boys Federated Clubs of New York, interest and impetus was given to the movement, and it was voted to raise \$25,000 in an eight days' campaign. A Secretary was sent us from New York (Mr. Fisher) and Miss Edna Maney was engaged also. Captains and teams were organized and on February 8, everything started. Suppers were held in the small Town Hall, reports were made and the enthusiasm ran high. The campaign was a complete success, over \$20,000 being raised.

I am glad to report that we hold the record per capita for the amount raised. Larger amounts have been raised- but for our population we raised more than any other community.

Too great praise cannot be given to the Directors, Secretaries, Captains, Team Workers and Givers. It was a noble response for a noble institution and the People of Peabody, should be very proud of their work.

✓ Special mention should be made of the way the Manufacturers of this Town supported this move and gave most generously. The Leather Manufacturers, almost without exception, gave largely and made our work possible. ✓ We owe it to them to conduct this work in a perfect way and to handle the funds given us with the utmost fidelity, and to show to them that both we and the work are worthy of their continued support. *must*

And the patriotic way in which the citizens supported and gave us their money must not be passed by. When we consider that over 2000 persons contributed, we begin to realize the active support given to the Community House by the People of Peabody. They have placed us, Directors of the Peabody Community House, in their debt, and it is up to us to pay it back with interest, not in money, but in human values, with saved boys and girls, with trained workers, with thinking, healthful children and an increased interest for the welfare of the individual.

Since the raising of the fund, we have been busy organizing and planning the work. Committees were chosen and I am very glad to report that every Committee and every Officer has faithfully performed their duties.

We purchased for our Home, the Shaw Estate on Helten Street, and obtained a splendid place for our work. We paid \$9,000 and have been remodeling the place to suit its new needs, installing electricity, oiling the floors and remodeling the heating apparatus.

Two thousand dollars have been appropriated to change the barn over into a gymnasium. An equipment committee has been organized to equip the house with new furniture and apparatus. Care takers have been engaged, and we are now in the midst of engaging a Superintendent. We have already some fifteen applications, and have worked these down to three suitable men. In the course of the next ten days this matter will be settled. By November first, we should be in running order, or very close to it, and under the charge of a competent superintendent.

Now that is my report for the past. What have we to say concerning the future.

Now that we have started we will show the People of Peabody that their trust in us has not been in vain. We will give them a work of which they will be proud, and of which they will be glad to support to the limit of their power.

Let us go forth, into a greater year of service, out for greater results, with our purpose high, and the will and the determination to put it through successfully.

Respectfully submitted

FRED N. MOORE, President.